

The Omnibus Patent Act and its various provisions have already had extensive analysis, numerous public hearings and full consideration of a wide range of perspectives. We believe that it is now time to call for a vote on this important legislation before the end of the first session of this Congress.

IEEE-USA supports the Omnibus Patent Act of 1997 (S. 507) and its publication provisions. Many important compromises have been made and we are now confident that the bill will strengthen the U.S. patent system. S. 507 takes into account many of our members' concerns regarding the disclosure of their technology prior to receiving patent protection. The Omnibus Patent Act provides inventors with the option of delaying the publication of their application until the patent is awarded—as long as they choose to file solely in the United States.

The bill provides our 220,000 U.S. members with a strengthened patent system and arrives at a reasonable balance between inventor protection and public disclosure of technology. We believe that his balance will assist in promoting U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this with us further please contact Scott Grayson in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 785-0017.

Sincerely,

DANIEL FISHER,  
Chair, IEEE-USA  
Intellectual Property Committee.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, July 9, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,526,093,018,467.09 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-six billion, ninety-three million, eighteen thousand, four hundred sixty-seven dollars and nine cents).

One year ago, July 9, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,359,038,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-nine billion, thirty-eight million).

Five years ago, July 9, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,336,575,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, five hundred seventy-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 9, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$454,517,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-four billion, five hundred seventeen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,071,576,018,467.09 (Five trillion, seventy-one billion, five hundred seventy-six million, eighteen thousand, four hundred sixty-seven dollars and nine cents) during the past 25 years.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

(In the RECORD of July 9, 1998, on page S7873, a portion of the text of Mr. DODD's remarks was inadvertently omitted. The permanent RECORD will be corrected to reflect the following:)

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, very briefly, I see my colleague from Ohio here, I want to add my voice to those who have spoken in praise of Senator JEFFORDS, the chairman of the committee, his staff, and the wonderful job they did in leading this piece of legislation

and working with Senator KENNEDY as the leading Democrat on our side.

What we witnessed today is a wonderful example of how the legislative process ought to work. It is hard to imagine taking on a piece of legislation that has a 5-year lifespan to it, a higher education bill that affects so many millions of Americans. We did this in one day in large measure because the committee worked very closely together, Mr. President. A lot of work went into trying to resolve issues as a committee. There were a couple we couldn't, so we left those to our colleagues, which is the way it should be here when you can't come to a final resolution.

That shows remarkable leadership on the part of the chairman and the ranking Democrat, that they can take a bill as complicated and as comprehensive as this, one as long in duration as this and bring it to the floor and, in the space of virtually 12 hours, provide the kind of unanimous—it may have been unanimous, I don't know what the vote was here—almost unanimous vote in support of the Higher Education Act for our Nation.

I want others to know that this is a good example of how we ought to work here. I hope others will heed this example.

For DAN COATS, who is not on the floor this evening, our colleague from Indiana, this will be the last higher education bill he will be involved in, as he made the decision to leave the U.S. Senate at the end of his term. Certainly, there will be other bills between now and when the session ends. I am certain Senator COATS feels a sense of pride, as he should, having played a major role in the last higher education bill he will be involved in in the U.S. Senate. I commend him for his efforts.

Let me join in commending staff: Mark Powden for his fine work, Susan Hattan, Scott Giles, Jenny Smulson, Corey Heyman.

Senator KENNEDY's staff: Marianna Pierce did a wonderful job on the Democratic side working on this and keeping us well informed and trying to work out amendments during the committee process and on the floor.

Jennifer Kron and Jane Oates did a wonderful job, as did Townsend Lange from Senator COATS' staff. And you will all understand why I pay a special tribute to Suzanne Day of my office who does a fabulous job on these issues, and has for many, many years. She was joined this year by a new member of our staff who did a terrific job, Megan Murray, who is here with us on the floor this evening. I want to thank her, as well, for the tremendous effort she put into making this a successful bill.

So, Mr. President, I commend our colleagues, and staff particularly, for really doing a very, very fine job. And in these days of acrimony and partisanship and invective behavior, it is wonderful to know there are examples of where this institution shines and shows its best. It did so under the leadership

of the distinguished Senator from Vermont and the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5934. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a payment to Rewards Program Participant 96-22 under the State Department Basic Authorities Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5935. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding airworthiness directives on certain Rolls-Royce Limited turbojet engines (Docket 98-ANE-15-AD) received on July 8, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5936. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A300-600, and A310 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-257-AD) received on July 8, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5937. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0100 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-329-AD) received on July 8, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5938. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-145-AD) received on July 8, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5939. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9 and DC-9-80 Series Airplanes, Model MD-88 Airplanes, and C-9 (Military) Series Airplanes" (Docket 96-NM-203-AD) received on July 8, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5940. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB SF340A, SAAB 340B,